

ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LIBRARY

Report of Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1941.

Dr. Hedley.  
Medical Officer of Health.

Rothbury,  
Northumberland.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health has issued instructions that Medical Reports should be presented in the same abbreviated form as for the previous two years:-

1. Any matter arising from or connected with the War.

Evacuation: In June, fifty, and in October twenty two children were received from North Shields. With a few exceptions, the physical condition of these children was quite satisfactory, and they appear to have taken no harm from the long and severe winter.

2. Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases for the year was 113 (compared with 179 for 1940).

Whooping cough was epidemic in July, August and September and there were several cases of measles up to March being a continuation of the epidemic of the previous year. The numbers of the various diseases are as follows:- Whooping cough 58, Measles 31, Erysipelas 10, Pneumonia 8, diphtheria 3, Acute polio myelitis 1, Cerebro spinal meningitis 1, Enteric fever 1. Two cases (one of polio myelitis and one of measles occurred in non-civilians). Of all these cases one case (of pneumonia) was fatal.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare;

The weekly session at the Cottage Hospital continued during the year with a satisfactory attendance, and about 230 infants were immunised against diphtheria.

4. Measures taken or recommended by the Medical Officer:

During the year I twice visited all the Schools of the district for the purpose of immunisation against diphtheria. A large percentage of parents or guardians wished to have their children thus safeguarded and I believe about 80% of children attending school in your area have been immunised. In this connection I would like to acknowledge with sincere thanks the willing co-operation of all the school masters and mistresses in carrying out this work. Without their ready help the scheme could not have been completed so successfully.

In common with the rest of the country the health of the district was remarkably good during the year 1941, despite the severe winter and the cold and sunless spring. This was undoubtedly due to two factors which contribute so largely to good health and long life, restriction of diet and hardwork.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours obedient Servant,

(Sgd) A.S. Hedley.



